

REMARKS

Claims 9-11, 13-30 and 32-40 are pending in the above-identified application.

Double Patenting

Claims 9-11, 13-30 and 32-40 were provisionally rejected on the grounds of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being allegedly unpatentable over claims 1-31 and 33-40 of copending U.S. Patent Application No. 10/427,666 ("the '666 Application"). Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the claims in light of the remarks below.

Claims 1-31 and 33-40 of the '666 Application have been canceled without prejudice. Thus, Applicants believe that the provisional rejection is moot and respectfully request that the provisional rejection be withdrawn.

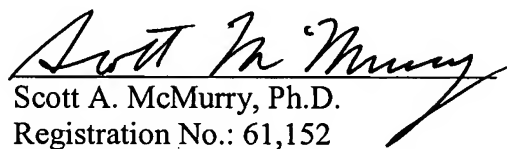
Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, Applicants submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited. Applicants respectfully request an early and favorable reconsideration and issuance of this application as amended herein.

If any additional fees are due in connection with this application, the Director is hereby authorized to charge any fees due, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 08-0219.

Respectfully submitted,

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